

Subject Economic Assistance Programs

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Overview

This bill modifies the Minnesota family investment program (MFIP) and other economic assistance programs by doing the following:

- modifying reporting periods to go from month-to-month reporting to six-month reporting;
- going from retrospective budgeting to prospective budgeting;
- modifying hardship extensions and sanctions under MFIP; and
- repealing the diversionary work program (DWP).

MFIP is a jointly funded, federal-state program that provides income assistance to eligible low-income families. MFIP is partly funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a federal block grant program to states.

DWP is a time-limited program (four months) to help parents quickly find jobs so that they do not need to receive MFIP assistance. When families first apply for MFIP, most are enrolled in DWP first.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Application.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.011, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Income.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.011, subd. 15. Modifies the definition of “income” under the chapter of statutes governing the child care assistance programs by: (1) making conforming</p> |

Section	Description
	changes related to the repeal of DWP; and (2) including nonrecurring income over \$60 per quarter. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
3	Universal application form. Amends § 119B.02, subd. 4. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
4	Changes in eligibility. Amends § 119B.025, subd. 4. Clarifies a cross-reference. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
5	Eligible participants. Amends § 119B.03, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
6	Funding priority. Amends § 119B.03, subd. 4. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
7	Temporary reprioritization. Amends § 119B.03, subd. 4a. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
8	Eligible participants. Amends § 119B.05, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.

Section	Description
9	<p>Date of eligibility for assistance.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.09, subd. 7. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
10	<p>Maintain steady child care authorizations.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.095, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
11	<p>Assistance for persons who are homeless.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.095, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
12	<p>Assistance for persons seeking and retaining employment.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.10, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
13	<p>Assistance for persons attending an approved education or training program.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.10, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
14	<p>Extended eligibility and redetermination.</p> <p>Amends § 119B.105, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
15	<p>Retrieval of contents.</p> <p>Amends § 168B.07, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>

Section	Description
16	<p>Hearing authority.</p> <p>Amends § 256.046, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date, and specifies it applies to acts of wrongfully obtaining assistance or intentional program violations that occur on or after that date.</p>
17	<p>Disqualification from program.</p> <p>Amends § 256.98, subd. 8. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date, and specifies it applies to acts of wrongfully obtaining assistance that occur on or after that date.</p>
18	<p>Disqualification.</p> <p>Amends § 256.987, subd. 4. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date, and specifies it applies to purchases made on or after that date.</p>
19	<p>Budgeting and reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.03, by adding subd. 2b. Requires county agencies to determine eligibility and calculate benefit amounts for general assistance according to the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
20	<p>SNAP reporting requirements.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.0516, subd. 2. Removes an exception to SNAP simplified reporting requirements for households receiving food benefits under MFIP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
21	<p>Prospective budgeting.</p> <p>Amends § 256I.03, subd. 13. Modifies the definition of “prospective budgeting” under the housing support program.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
22	<p>Reports.</p> <p>Amends § 256I.06, subd. 6. Modifies housing support recipient reporting requirements to allow for six-month reporting.</p>

Section	Description
	Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
23	Amount of housing support payment. Amends § 256I.06, subd. 8. Makes conforming changes related to prospective budgeting. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
24	Implementation of MFIP. Amends § 256J.01, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
25	Use of money. Amends § 256J.02, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
26	Participant. Amends § 256J.08, subd. 65. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
27	Prospective budgeting. Amends § 256J.08, subd. 71. Modifies the definition of “prospective budgeting” under the chapter of statutes governing MFIP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
28	Recurring income. Amends § 256J.08, subd. 79. Modifies the definition of “recurring income” under the chapter of statutes governing MFIP to make conforming changes related to prospective budgeting. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
29	Ineligibility for MFIP. Amends § 256J.09, subd. 10. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.

Section	Description
30	<p>Initial income test.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.21, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes to MFIP initial income tests related to six-month reporting and prospective budgeting.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
31	<p>Income test and determination of assistance payment.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.21, subd. 4. Makes conforming changes to the MFIP income test and determination of assistance payments related to six-month reporting and prospective budgeting.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
32	<p>Determination of eligibility.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.33, subd. 1. Modifies MFIP determination of eligibility provisions to be consistent with prospective budgeting. Specifies that an assistance unit is not eligible when countable income equals or exceeds the MFIP standard of need or the family wage level for the assistance unit.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
33	<p>Prospective eligibility.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.33, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to prospective budgeting under MFIP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
34	<p>Earned income of wage, salary, and contractual employees.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.37, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to six-month reporting.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
35	<p>Rental subsidies; unearned income.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.37, subd. 3. Makes a conforming cross-reference change related to prospective budgeting.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
36	<p>Fair hearings.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.40. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p>

Section	Description
	Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
37	Exemption for certain families. Amends § 256J.42, subd. 5. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
38	Eligibility. Amends § 256J.425, subd. 1. Modifies eligibility for a hardship extension under MFIP by removing the requirement that a participant be in compliance with program requirements. Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.
39	Employed participants. Amends § 256J.425, subd. 4. Modifies eligibility for a hardship extension for employed participants under MFIP by removing the requirement that a participant be in compliance with program requirements for a specified amount of time prior to receiving the hardship extension. Removes language related to permanent disqualification under MFIP. Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.
40	Accrual of certain exempt months. Amends § 256J.425, subd. 5. Removes language related to sanctions for extended cases (the subdivision governing sanctions for extended cases is repealed in this bill). Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.
41	Status of closed cases. Amends § 256J.425, subd. 7. Removes language related to disqualifying participants and permanent disqualifications under MFIP. Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.
42	Participants not complying with program requirements. Amends § 256J.46, subd. 1. Limits the application of sanctions under MFIP to noncompliance with requirements for orientation or employment and training services. Specifies a good cause exemption may only be granted for the month for which the good cause reason applies. Modifies sanctions for noncompliance with MFIP requirements including removing language requiring vendor payment of shelter costs. Modifies how occurrences of noncompliance are counted. Specifies the

Section	Description
	<p>process for counties to follow when processing an application from a participant whose case was closed and who reapplies within 30 calendar days.</p> <p>Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
43	<p>Sanctions for refusal to cooperate with support requirements.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.46, subd. 2. Modifies sanctions for MFIP caregivers who do not cooperate with child support requirements under MFIP.</p> <p>Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
44	<p>Dual sanctions.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.46, subd. 2a. Removes reference to vendor payment of shelter and utility costs. Modifies dual sanctions under MFIP.</p> <p>Provides a January 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
45	<p>Participant.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.49, subd. 9. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
46	<p>Employment and training services component of MFIP.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.50, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
47	<p>Assessments.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.521, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
48	<p>Program characteristics.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.621, subd. 1. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
49	<p>Allowable expenditures.</p> <p>Amends § 256J.626, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP.</p>

Section	Description
	Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
50	Eligibility for services. Amends § 256J.626, subd. 3. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
51	Quarterly comparison report. Amends § 256J.751, subd. 2. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
52	Prospective budgeting. Amends § 256P.01, by adding subd. 9. Defines “prospective budgeting” under the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
53	Factors to be verified. Amends § 256P.04, subd. 4. Removes from the list of items that county agencies must verify at application the use of nonrecurring income. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
54	Recertification. Amends § 256P.04, subd. 8. Requires county agencies to verify specified information during reporting in addition to during recertification. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
55	Income inclusions. Amends § 256P.06, subd. 3. Modifies the list of items that must be included in determining the income of an assistance unit under the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.

Section	Description
56	<p>Exempted programs.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 1. Exempts participants who receive SSI and qualify for MSA or housing support from reporting requirements under the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
57	<p>Child care assistance programs.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, by adding subd. 1a. Exempts participants who qualify for CCAP from certain reporting requirements.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
58	<p>Reporting requirements.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 2. Modifies participant reporting requirements under the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
59	<p>Changes that must be reported.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 3. Modifies the list of changes that must be reported by an assistance unit.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
60	<p>MFIP-specific reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 4. Modifies the list of changes an MFIP assistance unit must report and removes language requiring the assistance unit to report changes within ten days of the change.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
61	<p>Child care assistance programs-specific reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 6. Modifies the list of changes a CCAP assistance unit must report by adding a change in address or residence, a change in household composition, a change in citizenship or immigration status, and a change in family status.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>

Section	Description
62	<p>Minnesota supplemental aid-specific reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, subd. 7. Modifies the list of changes an MSA assistance unit must report. Requires assistance units not receiving SSI to report a change in unearned income of \$50 per month or greater and a change in earned income of \$100 per month or greater. Lists the changes an assistance unit receiving housing assistance must report.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
63	<p>Housing support-specific reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, by adding subd. 8. Paragraph (a) lists the changes a housing support assistance unit that is not receiving SSI must report.</p> <p>Paragraph (b) lists the changes a housing support assistance unit, including an assistance unit receiving SSI, must report.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
64	<p>General assistance-specific reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 256P.07, by adding subd. 9. Lists the changes an assistance unit receiving general assistance must report.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.</p>
65	<p>Prospective budgeting of benefits.</p> <p>Creates § 256P.09</p> <p>Subd. 1. Exempted programs. Exempts assistance units that qualify for CCAP, assistance units that receive housing support and are not subject reporting under the statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification, and assistance units that qualify for MSA from prospective budgeting.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Prospective budgeting of benefits. Requires any agency subject to the economic assistance program eligibility and verification chapter of statutes to use prospective budgeting to calculate the assistance payment amount.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Initial income. Specifies how an agency must determine initial income for purposes of determining the assistance unit's level of benefits.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Income determination. Requires agencies to use prospective budgeting when determining the amount of an assistance unit's benefits for the eligibility period based on the best information available at the time of approval. Specifies how anticipated income must be treated.</p>

Section Description

Subd. 5. Income changes. Prohibits an increase in income from affecting an assistance unit's eligibility or benefit amount until the next review unless otherwise required to be reported. Requires a decrease in income to be effective on the date the change occurs if the change is reported by the tenth of the month following the month when the change occurred. Requires a change in income to be effective on the date the change was reported if the assistance unit does not report the change in income by the tenth of the month following the month when the change occurred.

Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.

66 **Six-month reporting.**

Creates § 256P.10.

Subd. 1. Exempted programs. Exempts assistance units that qualify for CCAP, assistance units that receive housing support and also receive SSI, and assistance units that qualify for MSA from six-month reporting.

Subd. 2. Reporting. Paragraph (a) subjects an assistance unit that qualifies for MFIP, an assistance unit that qualifies for GA with an earned income of \$100 per month or greater, and an assistance unit that qualifies for housing support with an earned income of \$100 per month or greater to six-month reviews. Allows the initial reporting period to be shorter than six months to align with other programs' reporting periods.

Paragraph (b) requires MFIP assistance units and GA assistance units with an earned income of \$100 per month or greater to complete household report forms as required by the commissioner for redetermination of benefits.

Paragraph (c) requires housing support assistance units with an earned income of \$100 per month or greater to complete household report forms to provide information about earned income.

Paragraph (d) subjects an assistance unit that qualifies for housing support and also receives MFIP to the MFIP six-month reporting requirements.

Paragraph (e) requires assistance units to submit household report forms in compliance with the requirements of the chapter of statutes governing economic assistance program eligibility and verification.

Paragraph (f) allows an assistance unit to choose to report changes at any time.

Subd. 3. When to terminate assistance. Specifies when an agency must terminate benefits and when benefits may be reinstated.

Section	Description
	Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
67	Tax levy for social services; board duty; penalty. Amends § 261.063. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
68	Access to certain items. Amends § 514.972, subd. 5. Makes conforming changes related to the repeal of DWP. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
69	Revisor instruction. Instructs the revisor of statutes to: (1) remove references to DWP in sections of statute related to property exempt from summary executions and garnishment; and (2) make any necessary grammatical changes related to the removal of terms. Provides a July 1, 2024, effective date.
70	Repealer. Paragraph (a) repeals Minnesota Statutes, sections 256.9864 (reports by recipient); 256J.08, subds. 10 (budget month), 53 (lump sum), 61 (monthly income test), 62 (nonrecurring income), 81 (retrospective budgeting), and 83 (significant change); 256J.30, subds. 5 (Monthly MFIP household reports), 7 (due date of MFIP household report form), and 8 (late MFIP household report forms); 256J.33, subds. 3 (retrospective eligibility), 4 (monthly income test), and 5 (when to terminate assistance); 256J.34, subds. 1 (prospective budgeting), 2 (retrospective budgeting), 3 (additional uses of retrospective budgeting), and 4 (significant change in gross income); and 256J.37, subd. 10 (treatment of lump sums), effective July 1, 2024. Paragraph (b) repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 256J.425, subd. 6 (sanctions for extended cases), effective January 1, 2025. Paragraph (c) repeals Minnesota Statutes, sections 119B.011, subd. 10a (diversionary work program); 256J.08, subd. 24b (diversionary work program or DWP); 256J.95 (diversionary work program); and 256P.07, subd. 5 (DWP-specific reporting), effective July 1, 2024.



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